

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-01 SAB-01 SS-02 SSO-00 /008 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:RBHOWARD;ZC

APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:RWYROUGH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236558

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

CANALNEGS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES

FOR BELL FROM WYROUGH

I

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 7 FROM THE DEPARTMENT RESPECTING  
SEPTEMBER 1975 NEGOTIATING ROUND.

II.

1. H REPORTS THAT GIVEN CLOSE VOTE YESTERDAY IN SENATE-  
HOUSE CONFERENCE, OUTLOOK FOR HOUSE APPROVAL OF THE CON-  
FERENCE ADOPTED LANGUAGE IS STILL UNCERTAIN. MAJOR LOB-  
BYING EFFORT CONTINUES.

2. I HAD A USEFUL MEETING WITH RON NESSEN AND STEVE LOW  
ON 10/2. NESSEN WAS ATTENTIVE TO OUR BRIEFING ON THE  
NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED FOR BACKGROUND MATERIALS WHICH WE  
WILL PROVIDE. HE NOTED POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF CANAL  
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QUESTION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT BECOME AN

ELECTION ISSUE. BECAUSE OF CONSERVATIVE FEELINGS, NESSEN  
PREFERS THAT WHITE HOUSE SAY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE PUB-

LICLY ABOUT NEGOTIATION AND THAT DEPARTMENT HANDLE ISSUE  
WITH PRESS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

3. ON OCTOBER 2, ROGERS AND RYAN AND FIRFER MET WITH  
ADELAIDE AND RICHARD EISENMAN TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION  
FOR EISENMAN EFFORTS REGARDING SNYDER AMENDMENT. MEETING  
LASTED AN HOUR WITH ROGERS THERE ABOUT 30 MINUTES.  
EISENMAN REQUESTED STATE DEPARTMENT ROOM FOR MEETING WITH  
BUSINESSMEN INTERESTED IN FURTHER INFORMATION ON NEGOTI-  
ATION AND RYAN DIRECTED THAT WE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.  
CONCERNING EISENMAN'S IDEA OF ACADEMIC SEMINARS IN KEY  
STATES, ROGERS AND RYAN SUGGESTED THEY TRY PILOT SEMINAR  
WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITIES. (EISENMAN INFORMED FIRFER THIS  
MORNING THAT HE WAS HOPING TO MERGE BOTH IDEAS FOR A  
MEETING SOMETIME IN LATE OCTOBER.) EISENMANS ALSO MADE  
PLEA FOR FUNDS TO PAY FOR REPRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS  
NEEDED TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS BUT RECEIVED  
NO FIRM RESPONSE.

4. AMBASSADOR BUNKER WILL ATTEND THE PANAMA CANAL BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS MEETING TOMORROW MORNING (OCTOBER 4) AND  
WILL REVIEW THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND OTHER DEVELOP-  
MENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED SINCE YOU MET WITH THE BOARD IN  
JULY (I WILL ACCOMPANY).

5. AMBASSADOR BUNKER DISCUSSED TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AT  
OPEN FORUM ON OCTOBER 1. AUDIENCE WAS LARGE AND RE-  
MARKS WERE WELL RECEIVED. THE AMBASSADOR WILL MEET MON-  
DAY THE 6TH WITH 20 EDITORIAL WRITERS FROM MAJOR US PAPERS  
FOR BACKGROUNDER ON THE NEGOTIATIONS. I REPRESENTED THE  
AMBASSADOR IN A TALK THIS AFTERNOON BEFORE ABOUT 120  
MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION  
AT THE SHOREHAM.

6. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AMBASSADOR BUNKER WILL BE IN  
NEW YORK FOR THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION MEETING AT  
5:00 P.M. OCTOBER 9 AND PLANS A VISIT TO VERMONT FROM  
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OCTOBER 10TH - 13TH.

7. THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH GENERAL DOLVIN THIS AFTERNOON.  
I WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON THIS MEETING. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE236558  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RBHOWARD;ZC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750344-0599  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751086/aaaaczbf.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES FOR BELL FROM WYROUGH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PN, US, PQ  
**To:** PANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006